AR Som

AL-IV-A-113

First Bantist Church 212 Bedford Street, Cumberland 1849

Desnite a long history of bad luck and undergoing changes in appearance, the First Baptist Church in Cumberland, Haryland continues church services today. This church has the distinction as serving as a hospital for Union soldiers during the Civil Jar.

UNITED STATES DEPAR F THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR. JNLY RECEIVED DATE ENTERED

SEE IN	ISTRUCTIONS IN HOW T	<i>O COMPLETE NATION</i> COMPLETE APPLICABL	AL REGISTER FORMS LE SECTIONS	·
NAME				<u> </u>
HISTORIC Fire	st Baptist Church	•		
AND/OR COMMON				
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER	212 Bedford Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	<u> </u>
CITY. TOWN	Cumberland	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI STXTh	ICT
STATE	Maryland	CODE 24	county Allegany	CODE 001
CLASSIFICA	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL	PARKPRIVATE RESIDE
STRUCTURESITE	BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS  ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	XRELIGIOUS
OBJECT		XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
_OBJECT	IN PROCESSBEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
	_BEING CONSIDERED	_NO	MILITARY	_OTHER
OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
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NAME First Ba STREET & NUMBER 212 Bedf	ptist Church c/o Russ ord Street	sell L. Livengood, (	STATE	r1502
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#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

EXCELLENT \_\_GOOD

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_UNALTERED X\_ALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

X FAIR

\_RUINS \_\_UNEXPOSED \_\_MOVED

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church is located at 212 Bedford Street in Cumberland, Maryland is a T-shaped brick structure of 12stories. The 1917 east (front) facade is of white glazed, all stretcher brickwork; this also extends back one bay on the north and south facades. The rest of the building, constructed in 1849, is of red brick laid in common bond with random variations; this has been repointed. The original part has two high brick belt courses on each facade and a single low one on the side facades (although the north side is covered by additions). On the east facade only the low belt course exists, where it is executed in stone.

The church sits on a low foundation of rock-faced, coursed ashlar on the north and south and uncoursed rubble on the west (rear). It has a plain water table. The gable end of the church faces front. The gable roof is covered with sheets of asphalt. A replacement box cornice surrounds the 1849 structure. Two interior brick chimneys are located in the west end. One is original with corbeled cap; the other is a replacement.

The principal (east) facade is a three-part composition divided vertically into nave (on the south) and stair tower (on the north); the latter is divided horizontally to separate a basement from the tower above. This distinction is deliberately obscured on the nave by containing the windows of those two floors within one large opening in the wall. The stair tower wall is brought forward on this facade (in plan the tower comes forward on the east and north elevations), resulting in three exposed corners on this elevation. Each corner is similarly buttressed on its two sides with a three-part buttress, narrowing and set back from bottom to top. The set backs are at the first floor and choir levels and are marked by stone shoulders or weatherings. The top and bottom segments have inset round-arched panels. The choir level segments are terminated by molded concrete copings. The two buttresses which flank the stair tower have an additional section with an applied pediment and another concrete coping (these are not set back). The southernmost buttress is shorter than those on the facade. Its terminal coping turns to rake against the south wall of the nave. The top copings of the facade buttresses are continuous with the copings of their respective roofs.

The nave portion of the facade, wider than the stair tower, contains between the buttresses a large gothic tracery window set in a brick arch topped by a stone arch above the springing. The floor of the auditorium (first floor) is marked by a band of three large quatrefoil panels between the upper and lower windows. The wall above the arch is set with nine round-arched panels in a blind arcade which rises directly out of the window arch and follows the raking of the gable. Above this is the coping of the gable which breaks vertically near the point and then squares off to form a blunt peak.

The wall of the stair tower is similarly composed above the basement, without the quatrefoil or arched panels. The roof coping forms a simple low gable.

The basement contains the main entrance, set in an arch like the window arches, with a blind arcade of five arched panels above. The entrance has a double door of two six-paneled leaves in a wooden frame. The two parts of the stair tower are separated by a heavy window ledge, continuous with and set back from the weatherings of the buttresses.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The First Baptist Church
Allegany County
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

At basement level the south facade has a recessed frame coal chute at the rear; this is now sealed. There are three basement windows with 4/4 light sash containing translucen glass, wooden trim, and stone sills. A low brick belt course serves as lintel for these windows. The rear entrance on this facade is recessed and has a flat brick arch, wooden trim, and a two-panel door with one light of translucent glass. The entrance near the front has a four-panel door.

On the first floor of this facade are three round-arched stained glass windows with two tall panels and a fixed half-round one above. These have stone sills, plain wooden trim, and brick arches. The six illustrations in these windows are different from those on the north facade. There is also one small rectangular stained glass window with wooden trim and brick sill.

The west end has two basement windows of thick translucent glass, one with 56 lights and one with 69 and two larger movable panes; both have flat brick arches and brick sills. The door in the north bay is a replacement and the transom is boarded over. The first story has three window openings; the north one has been bricked in but was identical to the south one, which is like the windows on the south. The central stained glass window is shorter and wider and has a gently pointed brick arch and a brick sill. It is an alteration as the brickwork around it is disturbed.

The north facade has one closed up basement window with brick arch. At first story level are three stained glass windows of similar form to those on the south but different parts fixed and movable; they have brick arches, stone sills, and wooden trim. This facade also has a small rectangular window like that on the south; both swing in.

Two small additions are built against the north side of the church; they do not disturb the appearance of the church.

On the interior of the church the stairs are located in the northeast corner. At the basement level the main entrance opens into a hall facing the stair that leads to the main worship area on the next floor. The basement is divided into a number of rooms with walls and folding partitions.

The main floor is divided into a nave in the center, a Sunday School area divided off with a folding wood partition in the east end, and organ, choir loft, and two small rooms at the west end. The chancel area has an elliptical platform raised two steps above the nave and divided from it by three pointed-arched openings with wooden pillars. Behind these arched openings are the choir and organ lofts. The choir loft is slightly raised above the chancel floor. A trap door in the chancel floor covers a baptismal pool. The two rooms next to the chancel are preparation rooms. A closed stair leads from them to the basement.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The First Baptist Church
Allegany County
CONTINUATION SHEETMaryalnd

7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The nave ceiling is a flat plaster one with curved corners. The chancel ceiling is a four-arched cross yault. Four wrought iron lamps with stained glass panels hang from chains in the nave.

The open well stair that leads from the basement to the balcony at the east end of the church has seven landings and six and a half flights. Made of walnut, it is not decorated except for rectangular pendants. There is wainscoting on the walls of the stair.

Woodwork around the doors and windows is plain. The folding partition in the nave has eight seven-panel doors. The double doors leading into the nave are identical to these. The choir rail molding extends around the nave. A walnut paneled railing surrounds the organ and choir lofts. The face of the balcony is paneled. Architrave trim extends around the top of the walls near the ceiling.

The pipe organ was bought and installed in 1921 and was recently renovated.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

First Baptist Church Allegany County CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

**PAGE** 

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

REVISIONS

9/29/80 Ronald Andrews

The significance of the First Baptist Church on Bedford Street in Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland is derived from the facade that was added in 1917 to the existing church structure erected in 1849. Executed in a modest interpretation of the Late Gothic Revival style, the facade embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of architecture that, while popular in the United States in the first half of the present century, was not commonly used in Cumberland. The dominant features which characterize the First Baptist Church facade are a smooth, quiet perpendicular design executed in masonry. position of this structure in the architectural fabric of Cumberland is heightened by its location on a hill from which it is visible from various locations in the center of the city.

PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICCOMMONTY	ANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & RELIGION	V
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SPECIFIC DATES

1849, 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

With its very stylishly contrived facade, the First Baptist Church is a distinctive structure in the architecture of Cumberland. The original 1849 building has a nave of structure in the architecture of cumperland. The original 1049 bulliating has a make of the church on the second floor a characteristic common to Baptist and Methodist churches of the second half of the 19th century. The interior detail is also common to that period. The congregation has had ups and downs throughout its history, with the congregation fluctuating from almost nonexistent to very large. The combination of large typical 19th century structure with up-to date facade of modern materials is illustrative of the cycles in the congregation's history.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The history of the First Baptist Church in Cumberland has been one of fluctuating fortune. During the last century, this church had its setbacks, but always managed to overcome misfortune to prosper. The first record of Baptist meetings in this area was in the 1840s, when a handful of persons met in a hall above a fire station. The first missionary to come to these Baptists was Rev. Benjamin Gifffith, D.D., who later became the first pastor of the church.

By 1849 Rev. Griffith had gathered enough Baptists into his congregation to build a church, which was dedicated in November 1849. This original brick building was larger than it need be, according to Lowdermilk, who states that the "seating capacity" was much larger than the number of the congregation.

"Halls, churches, During the Civil War Cumberland was used to house Union wounded. and warehouses" were temporary hospitals where local physicians cared for the wounded soldiers. The soldiers hospitalized here numbered 500 in December of 1861 and 1,200 in the spring of 1862. Even after the large Clarysville hospital was opened, fifteen different locations in Cumberland housed wounded. Thomas and Williams state that the First Baptist Church was one of these.6

Shortly after the war, for some unknown reason, the council of the church met and decided to disband the organization. It was reorganized in 1871. According to local tradition, the congregation was forced to pay for their land a second time due to an error in the first title. In 1878 Lowdermilk reports of a congregation of seventy persons.

In 1913 the Reverend H.F. Loomis arrived to fill a one year vacancy at the pulpit to find that much of the congregation had drifted away. Through his strenuous efforts he rebuilt the congregation to 300 by 1923. At a cost of \$15,000.00 a new front facade to the church was erected and dedicated in January of 1917.8 Included in this facade are architectural components that join to create a balanced visual impact. The tracery windows are the largest in the Cumberland area. The soaring height of these windows

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DATE ENTERED.

The First Baptist Church Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

**ITEM NUMBER** 

PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

is countered by the molded concrete trim highlighting the buttresses and entrance. The arcaded effect of rows of pointed brick arches above the entrance and the larger window, combined with the recessed position of the window and entrance, present a contrast giving greater depth to the east facade. These Gothic Revival features and the asymmetrical design of the facade are reminiscent of the cultural awareness of the past members of the church.

Additional misfortunes include the murder of a missionary to China during disturbances there, and the loss of the church's history, including the names of many of the pastors, when the records were moved to Baltimore "for historical purposes."9

Today the church membership is still active and services continue despite the lack of a minister. It is the determination of a congregation with a history of struggle against misforuune that keeps this church a monument to the courage of the Baptist people of Cumberland. The Gothic facade of this building symbolizes the strength of these people "buttressed" by thier faith in God.

Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971), p. 464. Reprint of the 1878 edition.

Lowdermilk, p. 465.

Lowdermilk, p. 464.

Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County-A History (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976), p. 187.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland. (Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923), p. 476.

Lowdermilk, p. 465.

<sup>8</sup> Thomas and Williams, p. 477.

Lowdermilk, pp.465-6.

## MAJOR BIBLIOGE AT Y'CAL REFERENCES AL-1X-A-113 Allegany County Land Records, Courthouse, Cumberland, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971. Lowdermilk, Will H. History of Cumberland. (Reprint of 1878 edition). SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4. **IDGEOGRAPHICAL DATA** 54' x 155' ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_ **UTM REFERENCES** A[1,7] [6]9,2[0,5,0] [5,4]9,1[7,4,0] NORTHING EASTING ZONE NORTHING VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Reference Allegany County Deeds 4/259 and 4/398. LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE 1 FORM PREPARED BY Faye Purdham and Mel Collins, Allegany County Committee NAME / TITLE -William Pratt and Dave Dorsey, Surveyors DATE ORGANIZATION 10/4/77 Allegany County Historic Sites Survey TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER (301)777-5967 County Office Building, Pershing Street STATE CITY OR TOWN Maryland 21502 Cumberland **DSTATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION** THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE\_ NATIONAL. As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I

hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the	National Register and certify that it has	been evaluated according to	ţr
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Pa	ork Caprice		
OLD THE	Mith.	6-16-80	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	Mouring		_

DATE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  1 HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL RE	GISTER	
	DATE	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:	DATE	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER		
		GPO 897.453

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

The First Baptist Church Allegany County ITEM NUMBER

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

PAGE 4.

(MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONTINUED)

Thomas, James W., & Williams, T.J.C. History of Allegany County, Maryland. Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923.

Stegmaier, Harry, Jr. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
HISTORIC Firs	at Baptist Church			
AND/OR COMMON				
2 LOCATIO	N	<del></del>		
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY. TOWN	Bedford Street		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	CT
	perland	VICINITY OF	Sixth	
STATE	/land		соимту Allegany	
3 CLASSIFI			ATTEGRATY	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	ZOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)STRUCTURE	_XPRIVATE BOTH	UNOCCUPIEDWORK IN PROGRESS	COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL	PARKPRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
	_BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
4 -		_NO	MILITARY	_OTHER
4 OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
NAME	1.7. 1.1.0			
STREET & NUMBER	t Baptist Chruch		Telephone #: 77	7-0668
_	Bedford Street			
CITY, TOWN			STATE , Z	ip code
	erland	VICINITY OF	Maryland	d, 21502
5 LOCATIO	N OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION	Liber #: 4 4	
COURTHOUSE.			Folio #: 259 393	
REGISTRY OF DEED	s, etc. Allegany Coun	ty Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	30 Washington	Street		
CITY, TOWN	JO Washington	JULEEU	STATE	
	Cumberland		Haryland	
6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
DATE			- 1	
	<u>-</u>	FEDERAL	_STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
<del> </del>			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED

\_XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_GOOD \_\_`FAIR \_\_RUINS

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church is located on Bedford Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

The building basically consists of a one and one-half story, two bay wide, "T" shaped structure. Wall construction is brick featuring white glazed brick work over the entire eastern facade and extending back one bay each on the northern and southern facade. All the brick work, except the new eastern facade, is laid in american common bond using random variations. The eastern facade is completely stretcher bond. There has been repointing done on the brick work over the entire original building. There are two high, brick, continuous belt courses running on the south, north and western facade. A low, brick belt course is found on the southern facade only. This changes to an original smooth faced stone belt course as it runs into new eastern facade. Probably, this feature was originally on northern facade as well, which now has additions which cover this feature. The building is supported by a low, stone foundation of rock-faced coursed ashlar bond construction on the southern and northern facade and uncoursed rubble on the western facade. Water table is plain. The roof of the building is gable front. The roof is replaced, covered with asphalt sheets. A replaced boxed cornice with soffit and frieze surrounds the top of the building on the northern, western and southern facades. There are two brick chimneys, both inside end. One is original with corbeled cap, the other is replaced. The eastern facade is the front of the church. It has a 10 foot concrete base under its new facade which was constructed in 1917. Its walls feature moulded concrete trim throughout on buttresses, around windows, even the capping on top of the false parapet and gable located there. There are seven buttresses on the eastern facade including the extensions on the northern and southern facades. Three buttresses on the east and two each on the north and south extensions. Within this facade are found 34 recessed panels of concrete with pointed brick arches over their heads. Three of these are located on the northern extension of this facade on the buttresses with 5 of them in a row between the buttresses. On the southern extension, two panels are on the buttresses with a row of four panels between the buttres-Located here within these buttresses were formed archways in the concrete foundation with some tooled work. On the main eastern facade, each of the three buttresses have two of these panels. The buttress southeast corner has a wooden door, one paneled, vertical boards, plain wooden trim, one set in concrete archway at the base. Five of the panels are located above the main entrance to the church. Nine of the panels are located above the larger main window. Below the main window is located one iron grated, fixed, basement 20 light window of thick translucent glass of double layered squares. Also one iron doored coal shute. The first floor main window is a large stained glass tracery window with triple row pointed brick arch overhead. Tracery window includes decorated wooden spandrels and heavy wooden trim within. A smaller stained glass tracery window is located above the main entrance with triple row pointed brick arch overhead.

SPECIFIC DAT	<b>ES</b> 1849	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT	
1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	_AGRICULTURE _XARCHITECTURE _ART _COMMERCE _COMMUNICATIONS	LECONOMICS LEDUCATION LENGINEERING LEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT LINDUSTRY LINVENTION	LITERATUREMILITARYMUSICPHILOSOPHYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION SOTHER (SPECIFY) History
∠ERIOD —PREHISTORIC —1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _LAW	Xreligion _science

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the First Baptist Church in Cumberland has been a fluctuating one. During the last century this church had its setbacks but always managed to overcome misfortune to prosper. The first record of Baotist meetings in this area was in the 1840's when a handful of persons met in a hall above a fire station. At this time the first missionary to come to these Baptists was Rev. Benjamin Griffith, D.D. who later became the first pastor of the church.

By 1849 Rev. Griffith had gathered enough Baptists into his congregation to build a church that was dedicated in Nov. 1849. This original brick building was reportedly larger than it need be, according to Lowdermilk who stated that the "seating capacity" was much larger than the number of the congregation.

During the civil Mar Cumberland was used to house Union wounded. "Halls, churches, and warehouses" were temporary hospitals where local physicians cared for the wounded soldiers. 4 The soldiers hospitalized here numbered 500 in Dec. of 1861 and 1,200 in the spring of 1862. Even after the large Clarysville hospital was opened fifteen different locations in Cumberland housed wounded. 5 Thomas and Williams state that the First Baptist Church was used to house wounded soldiers. 6

Shortly after the war, for some unknown reason, the council of the church met and decided to disband the organization but it was reorganized in 1871. According to local tradition, another stroke of misfortune was that the congregation was forced to pay for their land a second time due to an error in the first title. In 1878 Lowdermilk reports of a congregation of seventy persons.

In 1913 the Reverend H.F. Loomis arrived to fill a one year vacancy at the pulpit to find that much of the congregation had drifted away. Through his strenuous efforts he had rebuilt the congregation to 300 by 1923. At a cost of \$15,000.00 a new front facade to the church had been erected, and dedicated in January of 1917. 8 Included in this facade are architectural components that join to create a balanced visual impact. The large tracery windows are the largest in the Cumberland area. The soaring height of these windows are countered by the moulded concrete trim highlighting the buttresses and entrance. The arcaded effect

## **MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Rocords, Cumberland, Maryland 21502 Lowdermilk, Will H. <u>History of Cumberland</u>. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971. Seprint of the 1878 edition.

Thomas, James W., & Williams, T.J.C. <u>mistory of Allegany County, Md. Philadelphia: L.R.</u> Titsworth and Co., 1923.

Stegmaier, Jr., Harry. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## **10** GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_\_ X 155

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRI	PTION
------------------------	-------

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Allegany County Historic Sites Survey	19/4/77
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
County Office Suilding, Pershing Street	777-5967
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Cumberland,	Haryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

Heavy wooden trim within this window also. The main entrance is located on the northern corner of the eastern facade. It has a pointed brick arch covered with a thin layer of concrete located over the doors. A recessed decorative wooden panel is located there too. The recessed wooden doors, original are six paneled with horizontal boards encased in plain heavy wooden frame.

Located in the rear bottom corner of the southern facade is a wood framed, recessed, coal shute entrance that is sealed shut. The three basement windows located on southern facade have four over four lights, translucent glass, double hung windows with mullion. They have plain wooden trim and stone lugsills. A low brick belt course serves as a flat brick arch overhead. Rear entrance here is recessed. Door is two paneled, horizontal boards, one light of translucent glass, plain wooden trim all around and flat brick arch overhead. Another entrance located near the front is four paneled, vertical boards with plain wooden trim all around. First floor has three stained glass windows, each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion. Above each is a half round stained glass window; fixed. These windows have stone lugsills, plain wooden trim and semicircular brick arches overhead. They feature six different illustrations; different from those on northern facade. One, small, recessed, rectangular, stained glass window has wooden trim around it and brick slipsills. This window swings in.

Western facade has two basement windows of thick, double layered, translucent glass. One is fifty-six lights, fixed with flat brick arch overhead and brick slipsill at the base. The other is sixty-nine lights, fixed with two larger rectangular lights in middle that swing out. It has flat brick arch overhead and brick slipsill at base. The entrance located here is replaced. It is three paneled, both horizontal and vertical boards with one light of translucent glass. Plain wooden trim all around. At one time contained transom which now is boarded shut. First floor had three windows orignally, one is now bricked shut with semicircular brick arch remaining. The northernmost window is stained glass with five lights, four of which are rectangular with mullion. Above is a half round stained glass window, fixed. Above window is semicircular brick arch and stone lugsill below. The remaining stained glass window has six lights. Three small rectangular lights beneath three larger lights. All are fixed except one on middle bottom that swings in. This window has double row brick pointed arch overhead and brick lugsill at base. Plain wooden trim all around. Originally, window was like the other two on the western facade.

Original basement window on northern facade is sealed shut with double row brick arch overhead still intact. First floor features three stained glass windows each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion. One half round stained glass window above each of these swings down and in. All the windows have semicircular brick arches overhead and stone lugsills at bases with plain wooden trim all around. There are six different illustrations depicted in these windows. Also located on northern facade is one, smaller, rectangular, recessed stained glass window that swings in. This window has brick slipsill and wooden trim all around. The church has two additions, both found on the northern facade. One abuts basement and made of brick. The other is tin siding over wood and located on the Northwest corner. Both have ribbed tar paper shed roofs. Basement addition has six, fourty-seven light windows of translucent glass, fixed, of thick double layered squares. One long rectangular light in middle of each of these swings out. Windows are connected by five brick mullions. Windows have wooden lintels and cement sills. Tin addition has cement foundation. It has three one-over-one light, translucent glass, double hung windows with plain wooden trim and wooden lugsills.

of rows of pointed brick arches above the entrance and the larger window combined with the recessed position of the window and entrance present a contrast giving greater depth to the eastern facade. These Gothic Revival features and the asymmetrical design of the facade are remiscent of the cultural awareness of the past members of the church.

Additional misfortunes to the church include the murder of a missionary to China during disturbances there and the loss of the church's history including the names of many of the pastors when the records were moved to Baltimore "for historical purposes."

Despite this long history of bad luck the church membership is still active and services continue despite the lack of a minister. It is the determination of a congregation with a history of struggle against misfortune that keeps this church a monument to the courage of the Baptist people of Cumberland. The Gothic facade of this building symbolizes the strength of these people "buttressed" by their faith in God.

<sup>1.</sup> Will H. Lowdermilk, <u>History of Cumberland</u> (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971.) p. 464. Reprint of the 1878 edition.

<sup>2.</sup> Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland. p. 465.

<sup>3.</sup> Lowdermilk, <u>History of Cumberland</u>, p. 464.

<sup>4.</sup> Harry Stegmaier, Jr. Allegany County-A History (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976) p. 187.

<sup>5.</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6.</sup> James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, <u>History of Allegany County</u>, <u>Md.</u> ( Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923) p. 476.

<sup>7.</sup> Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland. p. 465

<sup>8.</sup> Thomas and Williams, <u>History of Allegany County</u>, <u>Maryland</u>. p. 477

<sup>9.</sup> Lowdermilk, <u>History of Cumberland</u>. pp. 465-6

## ADDITIONS

Northern Facade - One abuts basement, made of brick, the other is tin addition on N.d. corner. Both have ribbed tar paper shed roofs. Basement addition has six, fourty-seven light windows, translucent glass fixed, thick double layered squares. One long rectangular light in middle of these swings out. Windows are connected by five brick mullions. Have wooden lintels and cement sills. Tin addition has cement foundation with tin siding over wood. It has three, one-over-one lights, double hung windows, plain wooden trim, wooden lugsills, translucent glass.

## DOURS

Eastern Facade - One pancled, vertical boards, plain wooden trim.

Southern Facade Front - Four paneled, vertical boards, plain wooden trim.

Southern Facade Rear - Two paneled, horizontal boards, one light - translucent glass, recessed, plain wooden trim. Flat brick arch.

Western Facade - Three paneled, both horizontal and vertical boards, replaced, one light - translucent glass, plain wooden trim. Had transom

## WINDOWS

now boarded shut.

#### Northern Facade -

First Floor - Three stained glass windows each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion, one half round, stained glass window above each of these swings down and in. Windows have stone lugsilts, semicircular brick arches and plain wooden trim. Six different illustrations in these windows. One, small stained glass window, rectangular, recessed, wooden trim, brick slipsill. Window swings in. One window sealed shut with double row brick arch still intact.

#### Eastern Facade -

Basement - Onc iron grated, fixed, thick transulcent glass of double layered squares, twenty lights. One iron doored coal chute.

First Floor - One large stained glass tracery window with pointed brick arch, decorated wooden spandrels, heavy wooden trim. One smaller stained glass tracery window, above entrance, pointed brick arch, heavy wooden trim.

Eastern Facade Facing South - Three stained glass windows vertically arranged atop one another with two brick spandrels between to look like one large window. Top stained glass window is double hung, two, one-over-one lights with decorated mullion. Pointed brick area

overhead and concrete lugsill, wooden trim all around. Hiddle windows are two,one-over-one lights, double hung, stained glass windows with mullion and wooden trim. No arch. Has a concrete Bottom windows are the same as the slingill. middle ones, except with the concrete foundation serving as the slipsill.

## Eastern Facade Facing North -

First and One half Floor - One stained glass window with a double row pointed brick arch and concrete lugsill. Window is double hung, one-over-one lights, wooden trim.

First Floor -

Cne, one-over-one lights, double hung, stained glass window, no arch, plain wooden trim, concrete lugsill.

## Western Facade -

Basement - Two windows of thick double layered, translucent glass. One fifty-six lights, fixed, flat brick arch and brick slipsill. Other is sixty-nine lights, fixed, with two larger rectangular lights in middle that swing out, flat brick arch and brick slipsill.

First Floor - Three windows originally, one bricked shut with semicircular brick arch remaining. The northernmost window is stained glass with five lights, four of which are rectangular with mullion. Above is a half round stained glass window, fixed. Above window is semicircular brick arch and stone lugsill below. The remaining window has six stained glass lights. Three small rectangular lights beneath three larger lights. All are fixed except one on middle bottom that swings in. Double row brick pointed arch and brick lugsill. Originally window was like other two. Plain wooden tria

## Southern Facade -

Basement - One wood, recessed coal shute entrance. Sealed shut located in rear. Three, four-over-four lights, translucent glass, double hung windows with mullion. Plain wooden trim. Stone lugsills, lower brick belt course serves as a flat arch overhead. Entrance here is two paneled, horizontal boards with one light window. Flat brick arch and plain wooden trim.

First\_Floor - Three stained glass windows each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion. One half round stained glass window above each of these is fixed. Windows have stone lugsills, semicircular brick arches, plain wooden trim. Windows have six different illustrations, different from ones on Northern facade. One small rectangular

stained glass window identical to one on northern facade.

## INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Hain entrance leads into basement entrance hall facing a stairway leading to the main worship area on first floor. The narthex is a hall leading from the stairs to the nave. The nave is divided at the rear with a folding wooden partition creating a temporary Sunday school area with pews. The chancel area is an elliptical platform raised two steps above the nave and divided from the nave by three pointed arched openings with wooden pillars. Behind these arched openings are the choir and organ lofts. The choir loft is slightly raised above the chancel floor. A trap door in the chancel floor covers a baptismal pool. Next to the chancel are two separate preparation rooms connected to the basement with a single flight encased stairway. The stairway leads to the first and one half floor balcony which includes a separate storage room and the seating area which has been divided by two permanent wooden partitions creating three Sunday school areas. The ceiling of the nave section is flat plaster, corners which are curved. The ceiling of the chancel section is a four arched, cross vault. Four lamps hanging on chains above the nave are wrought iron with stained glass lights. The walls are all of plaster construction.

The open well stairway leading from the basement to the balcony has seven landings and six and one-half flights are made of walnut. The stairway is plain except for rectangular pendants. Wainscoting is on the walls of the stairway.

Woodwork around the doors and windows is plain. The eight folding partition doors have seven panels and horizontal boards. The double doors leading into the nave are identical to these. An architrave choir rail extends around the nave. Walnut paneled railing surrounds the organ and choir lofts. The face of the balcony is covered with architrave panels. Architrave trim extends around the top of the walls near the ceiling.

The pipe organ was bought and installed in 1921 and was recently rennovated.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOM APHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

5

I. STATE Maryland

county Allegany

town Cumberland VICINITY Northeast
street No. 212 Bedford St.

original owner First Baptist original use Religious present ownerFirst Baptist present use Religious wall construction Brick No. of stories

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

2. NAME FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

DATE OR PERIOD 1847/1848
STYLE Gothic
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes

Church seats about 300.
Original Church with additions; Annex-218 Bedford Street had been rectory of St. Luke's Lutheran Church-Columbia Street.
Stained Glass window Memorials.
Communion Table in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Vandegrift.

Building used as Civil War Hospital.

.. above data by Dr. Benjamin Bruner, Pastor.

1849--Cornerstone laid; Church between Front Street (now Henderson Boulevard) and Columbia Street; Consecrated Nov.4, 1849. First meetings of the congregation were held in the Pioneer Hose Company.

Note: Defect found in title to property and congregation had to pay twice for their land.
...Scharf History, p.1410, 1411

CIVIL WAR HOSPITAL in the old church--Thomas History, p. 476

New part of church dedicated Jan. 21, 1917 " (\$15,000)

Note: The first church in Allegany County was Baptist-built in 1772

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Ty...H. G. H. G. H. G. OOD Exterior V. GOOD

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

10 Dr. Bruner, Pastor, by

H.G.H. Scharf and Thomas History Research by Helen S. Hinkle

7. PHOTOGRAPH

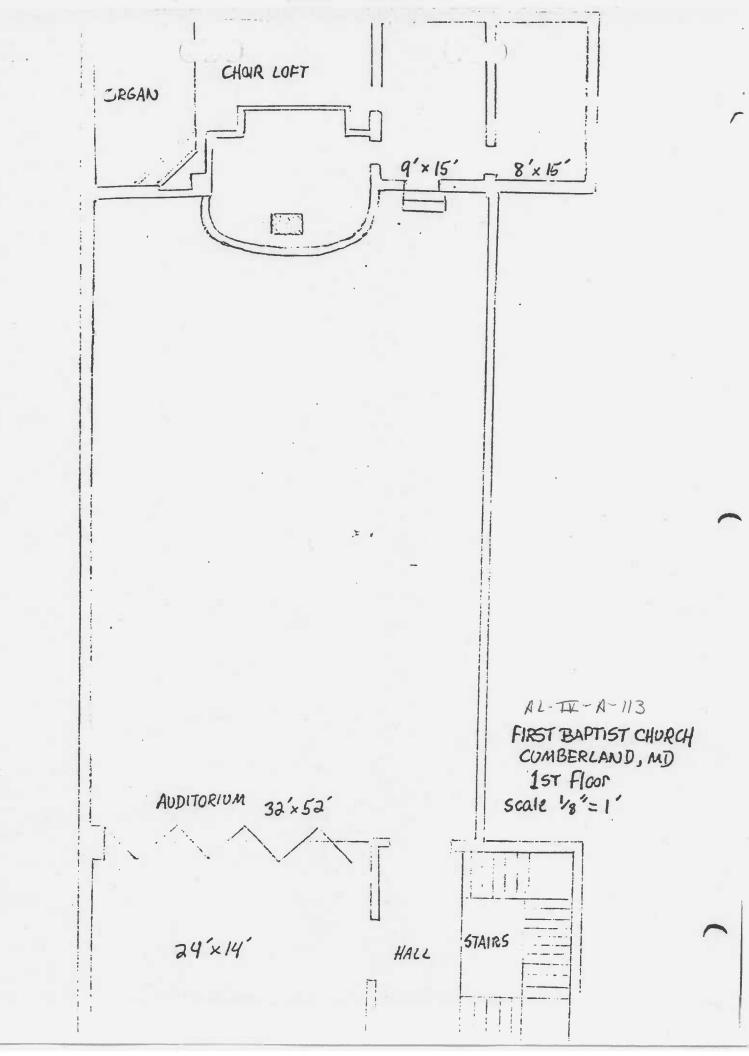
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Hazel Groves Hansrote, V-Chairman
Maryland Historical Trust,
Allegany County

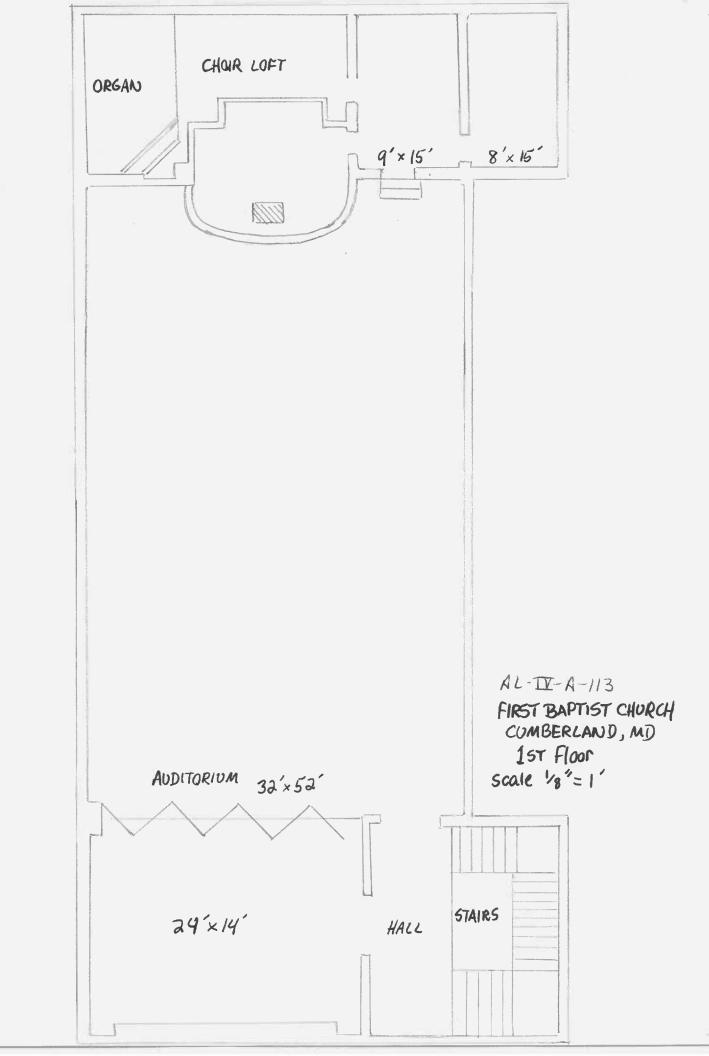
Dec.1, 1970

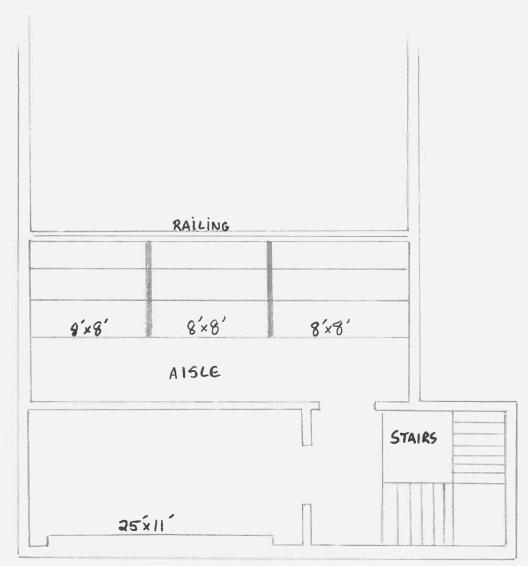
DATE OF RECORD

	INVENTORY NO: AL-IV-A-113 DAT	E *	10/13/77 4/259	*** Brown and any organic
	REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor		4/398 54 x 155	
	NAME OF PROPERTY: First Baptist Church			
1	LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 212 Bedford Street			
	DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: East			
	NAME OF OWNER: First Baptist Church			
	ADDRESS: 212 Bedford Street	H = -		
	Cumberland, Maryland 21	1502		
	STORIES: 1(½) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( X) WINGS, ADDITIONS(2) (See other page)			
	DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) "T" shaped. brick extending over eastern face WALL CONSTRUCTION:	. Head and	of "T" is white gla one bay on north ar	azed nd south.
	Stretcher bond on eastern facade.  ( ) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?) ( ) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. Random on north, sout ( ) STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated ( ) LOG			
	ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Northern corner of eastern face HARDWARE: original(X) replaced() FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards  Boxed CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) original() replaced(X) rafter ends, modillions, dentils	olain woo	oden frame. e, architrave	
	ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambro MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; sheets on On eastern facade are a false parapet and gable PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()	riginal(		
	CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick(x) Stone() Corbeled(x) Ca Location: Flush end() Inside end(2) Outside	ap <b>or</b> ig end( )	inal( ) replaced() Central( ) Inter	() ior( )
	ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semi (See other page)	icircula	r Pointed brick a	rches
	COMMENTS: Originally built under greek influence, now new e	eastern cade are		on

FLOOR PLAN:	of Japanes Total Total Total Total
<ul><li>( ) CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; d</li><li>( ) SIDE HALL: One room deep, two room</li><li>( X) IRREGULAR Meeting house with narthex,</li></ul>	louble parlor, one side
STARRAIN:	
<ul> <li>( ) ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights</li> <li>( X) OPEN: Well Single flight, two flights</li> <li>( ) DOG-LEG</li> <li>( ) DOG-LEG with WINDERS</li> <li>( ) SPIRAL</li> <li>( ) ROUNDED</li> <li>SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS</li> </ul>	with landing - one landing, three flights - two landings Seven landings Six and a half flights walnut Wainscot in stairway plain string
WALL FINISH:	
<ul><li>( X) PLASTER</li><li>( ) PANELED: original; replaced</li><li>( ) BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, or</li></ul>	
FIREPLACES:	
NUMBER	mns, masonary, marble
DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush HARDWARE: original; replaced	Dividing the nave there is an eight door partition, seven panels horizontal boards. Also double doors same treament
DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:	
(X) ARCHITRAVE	Architrave trim around ceiling and chair rain nave, wooden partition in balcony.
( ) SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS ( ) FLUTED ( ) FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS ( ) ARCHED OPENINGS: eliptical, tudor  NOTES:	Pointed arches at chancel.  Paneled rail around organ and choir lofts.  Architrave panels on balcony face.  Four lamps in nave chain-hung wrought iron stained glass. Wooden fluted capped pillars in chancel.
Fill, a Shiften halls of annual recommendation and a second The	A STATE OF THE STA

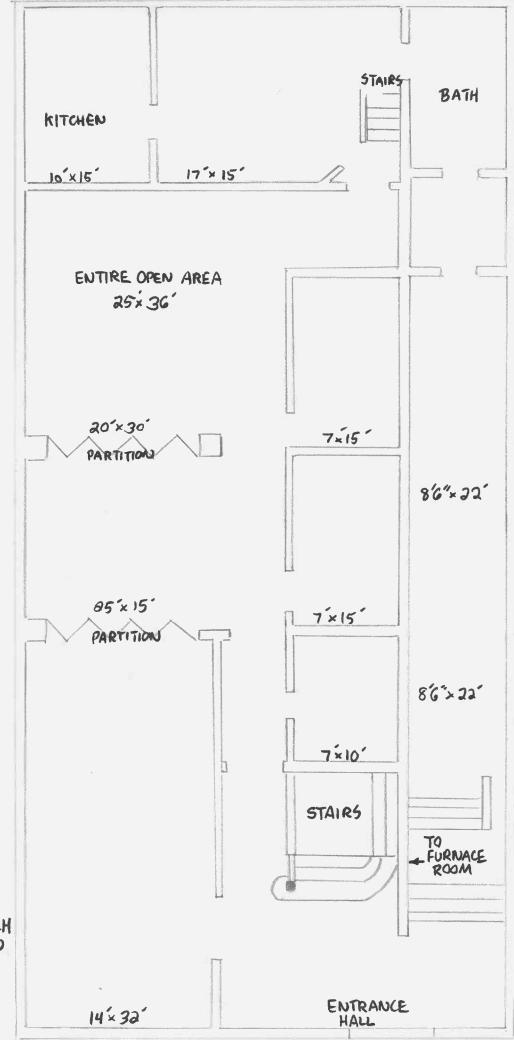






AL-IV-A-113

BALCONY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CUMBERLAND, MD
Scale 1/8"=1"



AL-IV-A-113

BASEMENT

FIRE BAPTIST CHURCH

LUMBER LAND, MD

Scale 1/8'=1'

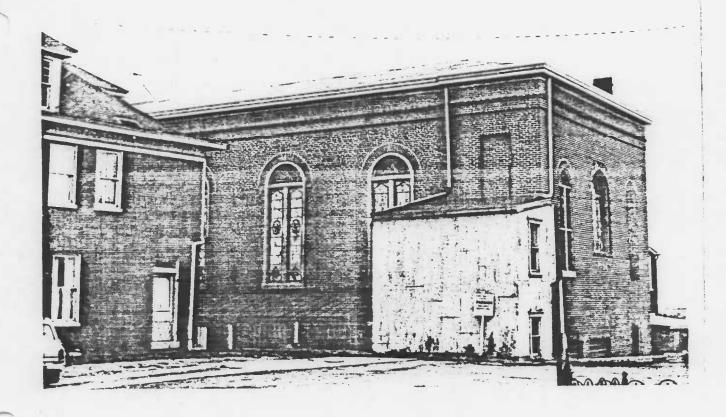


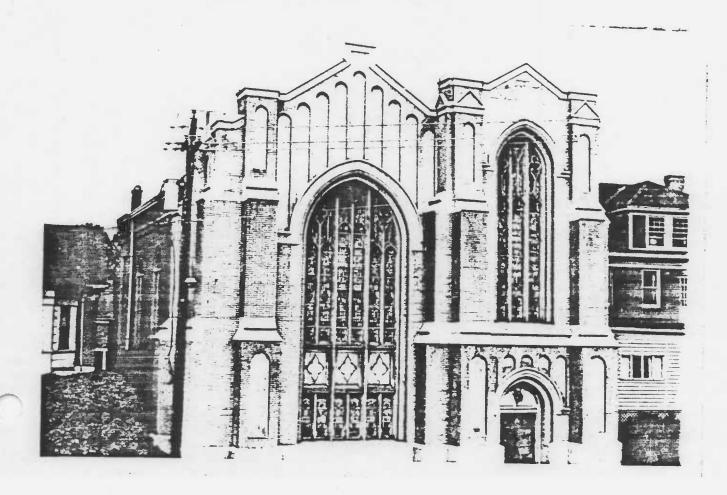
AL-IV-A-113 First Baptist Church 212 Bedford Street Cumberland, Maryland 21502

# Map of Gity of Cumberland, Allegany Co., Maryland

Charles R. Nuzum, City Engineer revised 1971 scale:









AL-IV-A-113

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

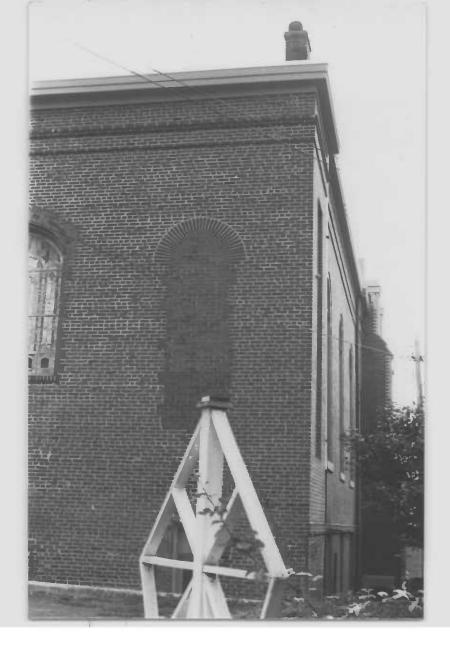
Bedford St, Cumberland

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/13/97 NORTHWEST



AL-1V-A-113 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND WILLIAM J. PRATT 10/13/17 SOUTHEAST



AL-IV-A-113

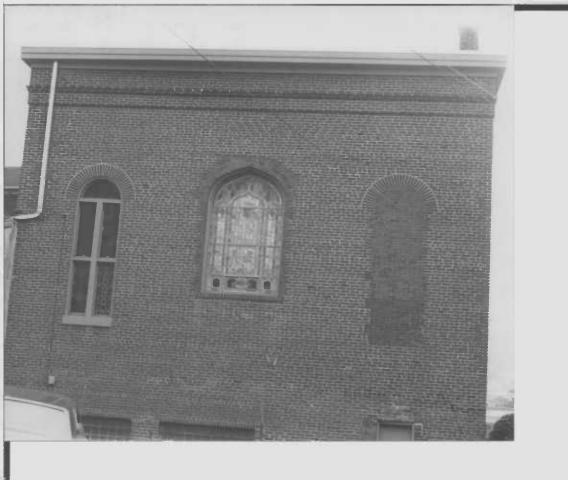
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERCAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

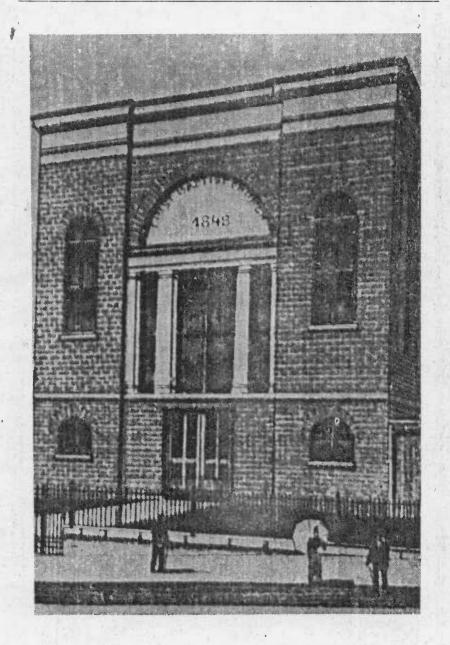
10/13/97

NORTHEAST



AL-1V-A-113 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND WILLIAM J. PRATT 10/13/77 EAST

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-1849